IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No 9572 OF 2003
with
SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 9745 OF 2003

For Approval and Signature:

Hon'ble ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE MR.JN BHATT
and
Hon'ble MR.JUSTICE A.L.DAVE

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1. Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgements? : NO

2. To be referred to the Reporter or not? : NO

3. Whether Their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgement? : NO

4. Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India, 1950 of any Order made thereunder? : NO

5. Whether it is to be circulated to the concerned Magistrate/Magistrates,Judge/Judges,Tribunal/Tribunals? : NO

DR. PRAVINCHANDRA JOITARAM PATEL
Versus
AHMEDABAD ELECTRICITY CO.LTD.

Appearance:
1. Special Civil Application No. 9572 of 2003
MR MAHESH BHAVSAR for Petitioner No. 1-18
MR KB PUJARA for Ahmedabad Electricity Company.
MR DN PATEL for AUDA.
MR RM CHHAYA for Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

CORAM : ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE MR.JN BHATT
and
MR.JUSTICE A.L.DAVE

Date of decision: 17/07/2003

ORAL JUDGEMENT

(Per : ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE MR.JN BHATT)

1. Rule. Service of Rule is waived by learned advocate, Mr. K.B. Pujara, for Ahmedabad Electricity Company, learned advocate, Mr. R.M. Chhaya, for Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and learned advocate, Mr. D.N. Patel, for Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority.

2. In these two petitions, common questions of common interest are involved and, therefore, the learned counsel appearing for the respondents have already agreed and waived the service of Rule, and upon joint request and considering the peculiar facts and special circumstances obtainable in these two matters, they are being disposed of by this common judgment finally.

3. These two petitions pertain to "High Rise Buildings" in respect of which "No Objection Certificates" were not issued, situated in the City of Ahmedabad and also within the precincts of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA).

4. After having heard the learned counsel appearing for the parties and considering peculiar facts and special circumstances, we propose to dispose of finally these petitions with following directions:

(i) The petitioners who have not installed requisite Fire Safety Measures so far, which are otherwise required for High Rise Buildings, shall install Fire Safety Systems as required under the law on or before 31st December, 2003;

(ii) Upon completion of such installations, the petitioners shall apply to AMC for the purpose of obtaining "No Objection Certificate" and after having made such an application, it will be incumbent upon the AMC to decide either by way of granting or rejecting No Objection Certificate within a period of 30 days from the date of such application along with the payment of scrutiny fees;

(iii) Upon receipt of such "No Objection Certificate", the petitioners shall apply for grant of Building Use Permission either under GDCR or BPMC Act to AMC or AUDA, as the case may be, in prescribed from with requisite date and information within a

period of 30 days with a copy to AEC, and, on making such application, AEC will be at liberty to supply electric connection to the petitioners, on usual terms and conditions, and the AEC shall not discontinue or disconnect electric supply of those petitioners to whom such supply was already granted till the decision is taken about Building Use Permission;

(iv) In the event of rejection of Building Use Permission, for whatever reason, it shall be incumbent upon the authority to send such a Report to AEC within one week from such rejection and intimation of the same shall be sent to the petitioners concerned;

(v) Upon receipt of the Report from AMC and/or AUDA with regard to the rejection of the Building Use Permission to the petitioner or petitioners, the AEC shall, before disconnecting electric supply, serve a notice to such petitioners granting them 30 days' time from the date of receipt of notice, with a view to facilitate them with an opportunity for making alternative arrangement or to avail permissible legal redressal.

5. In both these matters, it is clarified, for the removal of doubt, if any, that the notices earlier issued by the authorities shall not be acted upon and implemented by which time the authorities are directed to decide the applications made and/or to be made by the petitioners, and it will be open for the authorities for further action after consideration of the applications of the petitioners and take permissible legal actions.

6. Both these petitions shall stand finally disposed of, with the aforesaid directions. However, we clarify, with a view to remove doubt, that in case of any difficulty to any party, it will be open for such party to approach or move this Court. Upon request, direct service is granted.

8. Rule is made absolute to the above extent without any order as to costs.

[J.N. BHATT, ACTG. C.J.]

[A. L. DAVE, J.]

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